

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 6-11, and 16-28 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 11, and 20 being the independent claims. Claims 2-5 and 12-15 are sought to be canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 1, 6-9, 11, and 16-18 are sought to be amended. New claims 20-28 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Office Action included an objection to claim 9 "because of the following informalities: in line 1 of claim 9, should "any claim" be --claim--? Appropriate correction is required." (Office Action at p. 2). Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 9 to recite:

Circuitry according to claim 1, further comprising:
a second switch having a plurality of inputs connected to a respective plurality of second supply voltages, and an output connected to a second supply voltage terminal of the operational amplifier, wherein an input of the second switch is selected in dependence on the voltage level to which the signal is to be amplified.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove his objections to claim 9.

Double Patenting

The Office Action rejected claims 1-19 "on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,400,228." (Office Action at p. 2.)

Regarding claims 2-5 and 12-15, Applicants have canceled these claims without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

Regarding claims 1, 6-11, and 16-28, Applicants have filed herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate a Double Patenting Rejection Over a Prior Art with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,400,228, thereby rendering these rejections moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove his rejections of claims 1, 6-11, and 16-19 with regards to nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,400,228.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-14, 16, 17, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,873,493 to Fujiwara (hereinafter "Fujiwara"). (*See* Office Action at p. 3.)

Regarding claims 2-4 and 12-14, Applicants have canceled these claims without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

Regarding claims 1, 6-8, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 19, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Amended independent claim 1 recites (emphasis added):

Circuitry for providing a supply voltage to an operational amplifier, comprising:

 a switch having a plurality of inputs connected to a respective plurality of supply voltages, and an output connected to a supply voltage terminal of the operational amplifier; and

 a digital to analogue converter for receiving digitised values and for generating a corresponding analogue signal for amplification by the operational amplifier;

 wherein an input of the switch is selected in dependence on an *average* digitised value of the corresponding analogue signal and a voltage level to which the corresponding analogue signal is to be amplified.

Fujiwara does not disclose, teach, or suggest circuitry for providing a supply voltage to an operational amplifier wherein an input of the switch connecting one of a plurality of supply voltages to a supply voltage terminal of the operational amplifier is selected in dependence on an average digitised value of an analogue signal to be amplified by the operational amplifier. Therefore, amended independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Fujiwara. Claims 6-8 and 10 depend upon claim 1 and are not anticipated by Fujiwara because of this reason and because of their additional distinctive features.

Amended independent claim 11 recites (emphasis added):

A method of providing a supply voltage to an operational amplifier, comprising the steps of:

 providing a plurality of supply voltages;

 converting digitised values into an analogue signal for amplification by the operational amplifier;

selecting one of the plurality of supply voltages in dependence on an *average* digitised value of the analogue signal and a voltage level to which the analogue signal is to be amplified; and
connecting the selected one of the plurality of supply voltages to a supply voltage terminal of the operational amplifier.

Fujiwara does not disclose, teach, or suggest a method of providing a supply voltage to an operational amplifier by selecting one of a plurality of supply voltages in dependence on an average digitised value of an analogue signal to be amplified by the operational amplifier. Therefore, amended independent claim 11 is not anticipated by Fujiwara. Claims 16, 17, and 19 depend upon claim 11 and are not anticipated by Fujiwara because of this reason and because of their additional distinctive features.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be reconsidered and withdrawn for claims 1, 6-8, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 19 and that these claims be passed to allowance.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 20-28. New independent claim 20 recites (emphasis added):

A method of providing a supply voltage to an operational amplifier, comprising the steps of:
providing a first supply voltage and a second supply voltage;
determining an *average* value of an input signal to the operational amplifier; and
connecting one of the first supply voltage and the second supply voltage to a first power supply terminal of the operational amplifier in response to the *average* value.

Fujiwara does not disclose, teach, or suggest a method of providing a supply voltage to an operational amplifier by determining an average value of an input signal to the operational

amplifier. Therefore, new independent claim 20 is neither anticipated by nor unpatentable over Fujiwara. Claims 21-28 depend upon claim 20 and are neither anticipated by nor unpatentable over Fujiwara because of this reason and because of their additional distinctive features. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 20-28 be passed to allowance.

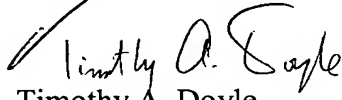
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


Timothy A. Doyle
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 51,262

Date: 8 MAR 06

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600